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**HEADLINE:** New **TechBoston** Academy gets kids wired to learn

**BYLINE:** By ED HAYWARD

**BODY:**

The tug-o-war Austin Castro waged to get his son, Austin Jr., on his way to school has ended. The 14-year-old Roslindale boy now eagerly makes his way to **TechBoston** Academy in Brighton.

He spends his day working on a wireless laptop studying conventional subjects such as physics, English, history and Latin, as well as learning state-of-the art computer skills at the city's newest high school.

"My son has been the type who has been hard to motivate," said the elder Castro. "But with this school I don't have to work to get him out of bed. I don't worry about him being motivated. He thinks it's fun to come here."

The younger Castro is one of the first 80 students assigned to the school, which opened this month with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Boston Foundation, along with donations from a long list of computer and high tech vendors.

Yesterday, city officials held an open house at the school, designed to "incubate" new technology and teaching practices that can be shared with the city's other 19 high schools.

"This is intended to take us to the next level with our continued commitment to high standards for academics as well as the realities of technology in the 21st century," said schools' chief Thomas W. Payzant.

The city expects to be able to fund the school in the future, adding a class a year. Eventually, the academy is supposed to move to the Dorchester or Roxbury area from its temporary home at the old Taft Middle School